

House Bill 346

By: Representatives Smith of the 19th, Birdsong of the 123rd, Stephens of the 150th, Watson of the 70th, Taylor of the 134th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to special license plates, so as to provide for such plates for active duty members of
3 the armed forces; to provide for plate design; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
4 purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
8 special license plates, is amended by striking Code Section 40-2-85.1, relating to license
9 plates for veterans, and inserting in its place the following:

10 "40-2-85.1.

11 (a) Motor vehicle owners who are active duty members or retired veterans of the armed
12 forces of the United States or persons who served during World War I, World War II, the
13 Korean War, the Vietnam War, or Operation Desert Storm shall be eligible to receive
14 special and distinctive vehicle license plates for private passenger cars, trucks, or
15 recreational vehicles used for personal transportation. Such license plates shall be issued
16 in compliance with the state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of
17 motor vehicles as prescribed in Article 2 of this chapter.

18 (b) A veteran or active duty member who qualifies for the special and distinctive license
19 plate pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section shall make application therefor with
20 the commissioner and include the requisite fee. The commissioner shall design a distinctive
21 license plate to commemorate service by the United States armed forces in wars listed in
22 subsection (a) of this Code section. The commissioner shall promulgate such rules and
23 regulations as may be necessary to enforce compliance with all state license laws relating
24 to the use and operation of private passenger cars and trucks before issuing these license
25 plates in lieu of the regular Georgia license plates. The manufacturing fee for such special
26 and distinctive license plates shall be \$25.00. The commissioner is specifically authorized

1 to promulgate all rules and regulations necessary to ensure compliance in instances where
2 such vehicles have been transferred or sold. Except as provided in subsection (d) of this
3 Code section, such plates shall be nontransferable.

4 (c) The special and distinctive vehicle license plates shall be as prescribed in Article 2 of
5 this chapter for private passenger cars or trucks used for personal transportation. Such
6 plates shall contain such words or symbols, in addition to the numbers and letters
7 prescribed by law, so as to identify distinctively the owners as active duty members or
8 retired veterans of the armed forces of the United States or persons who served during
9 World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, or Operation Desert Storm
10 and shall additionally, for such plates manufactured after July 1, 2001, identify distinctly
11 the owner as a member or veteran of one of the following branches of the armed forces:
12 Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, or Coast Guard.

13 (d) The license plate issued pursuant to this Code section shall be transferred between
14 vehicles as provided in Code Section 40-2-80. The spouse of a deceased retired veteran of
15 the armed forces of the United States or of a deceased person who served during World
16 War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, or Operation Desert Storm shall
17 continue to be eligible to be issued a distinctive personalized license plate as provided in
18 this Code section for any vehicle owned by such veteran ownership of which is transferred
19 to the surviving spouse or for any other vehicle owned by such surviving spouse either at
20 the time of the qualifying veteran's death or acquired thereafter, so long as such person
21 does not remarry.

22 (e) Special license plates issued under this Code section shall be renewed annually with
23 a revalidation decal as provided in Code Section 40-2-31 upon payment of an additional
24 \$25.00 annual registration fee which fee shall be collected by the county tag agent at the
25 time of collection of other registration fees and remitted to the state as provided in Code
26 Section 40-2-34. It shall be a requirement that a county name decal shall be affixed and
27 displayed on license plates issued under this Code section."

28 SECTION 2.

29 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.